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Attorney Docket No. 07553.0009

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors: Michiaki SANO

Serial No.: 09/671,201

Filed: September 28, 2000

For: PLASMA PROCESSING METHOD

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) Group Art Unit: 1765
)
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) Examiner: Lan Vinh
)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

PETITION TO RESTART PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. § 710.06, applicants request that the period for reply to the Office Action dated January 9, 2002, be restarted in view of the delay in receiving the Office Action from the U.S. Postal Service.

The Office Action was presumably mailed by the United States Patent and Trademark Office on January 9, 2002, but it was not received by the undersigned firm until February 7, 2002. A copy of the first page of the Office Action showing the date of receipt of the Office Action at the correspondence address stamped thereon is enclosed. All mail received at the undersigned's firm is date stamped by the mailroom before it is received by the attorney responsible for the case. Thus there is no reason to believe that the Office Action was not received on February 7, 2002.

Since a substantial portion of the set reply period had elapsed by the date of receipt of the Office Action (almost one (1) month) and this Petition is being filed within two weeks of the date of receipt, it is respectfully submitted that applicants are entitled to have the period for response to the Office Action of January 9, 2002, restarted under the provisions of M.P.E.P. § 710.06.

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If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Petition, please charge such fee to our deposit account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: February 13, 2002

By: *David W. Hill*
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